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Appl. No. 10/706,740
Response to Office Action of February 23, 2006
Page 2**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A dental floss dispenser comprising:
a housing comprising ~~an annular~~ a base and a protrusion forming a cavity dimensioned to receive the cap of a toothpaste tube and having generally vertically oriented ribs along its interior;
a spool of dental floss mounted for rotation on the ~~cylindrical~~ protrusion;
a cover connected to the housing by a first hinge, the cover enclosing the end of the housing opposite the cavity and comprising a notch and a cutting member whereby the end of the dental floss is threaded through the notch for removal; and
a lid attached to the cover by a second hinge enclosing the cover;
whereby the housing is capable of being attached to a toothpaste tube.
2. (Original) The dental floss dispenser of Claim 1, wherein the housing is cylindrical.
3. (Original) The dental floss dispenser of Claim 1, wherein the housing comprises two convex walls and two concave walls forming an ergonomically designed housing.
4. (Original) The dental floss dispenser of Claim 1, wherein the cutting member comprises a metal lance attached to the cover for cutting the dental floss.
5. (Original) The dental floss dispenser of Claim 1, further comprising a lip extending from the lid to facilitate opening of the lid.

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6. (Original) The dental floss dispenser of Claim 1, wherein the housing, cover and lid comprise plastic.

7. (Currently Amended) A dental floss dispenser for attachment to a tube of toothpaste comprising:

a housing comprising ~~an annular~~ a base and upstanding walls forming a cylindrical protrusion and a cavity beneath the protrusion dimensioned to receive the cap of a toothpaste tube, the interior portion of the upstanding walls having generally vertically oriented ribs;

a spool of dental floss mounted for rotation on the cylindrical protrusion;

a cover connected to the housing by a first hinge, the cover enclosing the end of the housing opposite the cavity and comprising a notch and a cutting member whereby the end of the dental floss is threaded through the notch for removal and cutting to a desired length by the cutting member; and

a lid attached to the cover by a second hinge for opening and closing dispenser.

8. (Original) The dental floss dispenser of Claim 7, wherein the housing is cylindrical.

9. (Original) The dental floss dispenser of Claim 7, wherein the housing comprises two convex straight walls and two concave walls forming an ergonomically designed housing.

10. (Original) The dental floss dispenser of Claim 7, wherein the cutting member comprises a metal lance attached to the cover for cutting the dental floss.

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11. (Original) The dental floss dispenser of Claim 7, further comprising a lip extending from the lid to facilitate opening of the cap.

12. (Original) The dental floss dispenser of Claim 7, wherein the housing, cover and lid comprise plastic.

13. (Currently Amended) A dental floss dispenser comprising:

a housing comprising ~~an annular~~ a base and a protrusion forming a cavity dimensioned to receive the cap of a toothpaste tube and having generally vertically oriented ribs along its interior;

a dental floss dispensing means within the housing for dispensing dental floss;

a cover connected to the housing by a first hinge, the cover enclosing the end of the housing opposite the cavity and comprising a notch and a cutting means for cutting the desired length of dental floss, whereby the end of the dental floss is threaded through the notch for removal; and

a lid attached to the housing by a second hinge enclosing the cover;

whereby the housing is capable of being attached to a toothpaste tube.

14. (Original) The dental floss dispenser of Claim 13, wherein the housing is cylindrical.

15. (Original) The dental floss dispenser of Claim 13, wherein the housing comprises two convex walls and two concave walls forming an ergonomically designed housing.

16. (Original) The dental floss dispenser of Claim 13, further comprising a lip extending from the lid to facilitate opening of the lid.

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17. (Original) The dental floss dispenser of Claim 13, wherein the housing, cover and lid comprise plastic.

18. (New) An oral hygiene apparatus comprising:

a dental floss dispenser comprising a housing having a base and upstanding walls forming a protrusion and a cavity underneath the protrusion, the cavity comprising ribs; dental floss mounted on the protrusion for dispensing;

a cover connected to the housing enclosing the end of the housing opposite the cavity and comprising a notch and a cutting member whereby the end of the dental floss is threaded through the notch for removal;

a lid attached to the dispenser by a hinge for opening and closing the dispenser; and

a toothpaste tube comprising a tube body and a cap;

wherein the cavity of the dental floss dispenser is configured to fit over the toothpaste tube cap, attaching the dental floss dispenser to the toothpaste tube cap.

19. (New) The oral hygiene apparatus of Claim 18, wherein the ribs are generally vertically oriented.

20. (New) The oral hygiene apparatus of Claim 18, wherein the lid is attached to the cover.